

ER 61-988/a

20 February 1961

Personal

card
Honorable Albert Gore
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Gore:

I am sincerely appreciative of the trouble you took of writing me under date of February 3 with regard to the interesting conversation which you had had on February 1. I have shared this letter on a very restricted basis with one or two others equally interested with me in this particular field.

These days there are rumors that your host may be returning to his homeland. As yet however this is still in the rumor stage.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD:mfb

Orig - Addressee

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Copies prepared 3/7/61 for:

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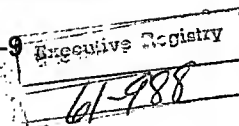
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United States Senate

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February 3, 1961

Honorable Allen Dulles
 Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Although the information contained herein may be of no particular interest, it occurs to me that the Agency might be interested in an invitation which Mrs. Gore and I accepted from the Soviet Ambassador and the conversation of the evening.

Beginning sometime in November, Ambassador Menshikov extended several invitations; each time we found ourselves unable to accept. Finally, in January, his secretary called and said that the Ambassador would like to extend an invitation for either luncheon or dinner, any time in the month of February. I promptly accepted for the evening of February 1.

There were no particularly significant developments in the conversation. I asked the Ambassador point-blank if Mr. Khrushchev would attend the United Nations session this winter or spring. He quickly said, "I have not the slightest information on that."

He then proceeded to say that one did not visit a country unless invited, etc. I called to his attention the fact that no invitation was necessary for a head of state to attend a United Nations session. This conversation proceeded along the line which I interpreted to be an effort to learn my views of the advisability of such a visit or early meeting between the heads of state of our two countries. Thereupon, I expressed the view -- which I emphasized was purely my own personal view which in no way reflected any conversations I had had with anyone in the executive branch of the government -- that it would

February 3, 1961

Honorable Allen Dulles

not be in the interest of better relations between the countries for such a situation to be pressed by Premier Khrushchev at this time. I recalled that Mr. Khrushchev had visited and toured this country and that our President had been disinclined to visit the Soviet Union, albeit after the occurrence of an event which I thought he and I would prefer not to mention or discuss. I further expressed the view, again emphasizing it as being an entirely personal one, that the restoration of sufficient comity between the countries, which would of necessity be accomplished only by step-by-step development and the passage of time, and the extension of an invitation to the President of the United States to visit the Soviet Union, would be conditions wisely precedent to Mr. Khrushchev's pressing the collar, so to speak, for another visit to the United States.

Mr. Menshikov placed considerable emphasis upon the need for bettering relations, developing understanding, more peaceful exchanges and, of course, I concurred in the desirability of such development, but I did not think the conversation resulted in anything more than general expressions of views on these points.

Upon my initiation, we discussed at some length trade between the countries. I told him that a personal friend of mine is currently on a trip around the world, and that I had asked him, and that Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges had requested him, to inquire about opportunities for improving U. S. trade with other countries which he visited, including the Soviet Union. Mr. Menshikov said he would be glad to facilitate such a visit and started to take some notes, whereupon I suggested that I would give him a memorandum upon the matter. (A copy of this memorandum is attached.)

Mrs. Menshikov proved to be a gracious and pleasant hostess. I found it interesting that at least twice, perhaps three times, the Ambassador said that his wife was not a member of the Party. Upon one occasion, she said she was "independent." Upon another occasion, after I had inquired of his definition of a "revisionist," he, in a light manner (although I was not entirely sure of this) said, "She's a revisionist." I take it that all this was light and social banter, but I found it interesting, to say the least of it.

February 3, 1961

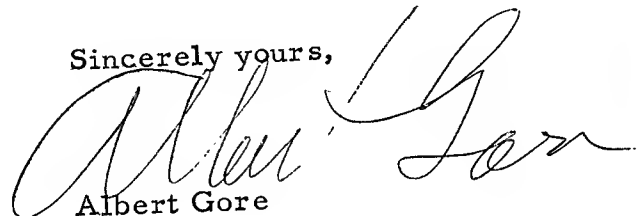
Honorable Allen Dulles

There was some general discussion of disarmament and nuclear weapons tests. I did not find him as inquisitive in respect of nuclear weapons tests on this visit as on a visit with him last summer about which I reported to you.

I probed with some insistence upon the unity of communist nations and communist doctrine, with particular reference to the independence of a given country, especially with the other communist countries, and possible variation of views and application of communist theory as between communist parties. I was somewhat surprised at his readiness to state that there were differences. As between Russia and China, for instance, he said that relations were as between nations with payments made, balance of payments kept, understandings entered into, etc. Each time, though, he would insist that there was unity of communism.

The above is the gist of the conversation with the usual pleasantries and amenities and idle chatter about weather, children, home life, politics, etc., thrown in. If anyone in the Agency would have any specific inquiry, I shall be glad to report in greater detail.

Sincerely yours,



Albert Gore

AG:dsc
enc

Handwritten: Attached to ER 61-988

COPY

February 3, 1961

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambassador Menshikov

From: Albert Gore, U. S. S.

Dr. Armand Hammer, who lived and was in business in the Soviet Union for about nine years in the 1920s, and who has been immensely successful in the business field since his return to the United States, is en route to Moscow now. I have asked him, and Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges has requested him, to explore, as a private citizen, the possibilities for increased trade between the people of the Soviet Union and the people of the United States. Whatever efforts Dr. Hammer undertakes in this regard will be as a private citizen, but we hope it will be helpful. He expects to arrive in Moscow on or about February 11. He would like an appointment with First Deputy Chairman Mikoyan. I have written Deputy Chairman Mikoyan direct for an appointment and I am today communicating with the United States Ambassador requesting such an appointment. Any assistance which Ambassador Menshikov can give with respect to Dr. Hammer's visit will be appreciated.

(This is a copy of a memorandum dictated to a secretary at the Soviet Embassy by telephone today.)